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PLEASE HOLD. FOR RELEASE AFTER 9:30 PMEST (8:30 PM CST)  
MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 1955

ATTENTION: EDITORS AND CORRESPONDENTS:

Attached is the complete transcript of REPORTERS' ROUNDUP  
with this week's guest - Senator Strom Thurmond, Democrat of South  
Carolina.

The key topic: PEOPLE'S OF THE SOUTH.

By-liners on this week's panel are: Jack Doherty,  
the New York Daily News, and L. Edgar Prina, Washington Evening Star.

REPORTERS' ROUNDUP, moderated by Commentator Robert F.  
Hurleigh, is a weekly nation-wide network feature produced by Mutual  
in Washington and is heard coast to coast over most of WRS' 582  
affiliated stations, 9:30 - 10:00 PMEST (8:30 - 9:00 PM CST).



FOR RELEASE AFTER 9:30 P.M., EST (8:30 P.M., CST), MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 1955

"REPORTERS' ROUNDUP"

GUEST: Senator Strom Thurmond (Dem., S. C.)

MODERATOR: Robert F. Hurleigh

PANEL: L. Edgar Prina, Washington Evening Star

Jack Doherty, New York Daily News

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FISKE: REPORTERS' ROUNDUP, where bylines make headlines! In a moment hear United States Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina answer questions fired at him by a panel of veteran reporters.

HURLEIGH: Should President Eisenhower consider appointing Democrats to some key Administration policy making jobs such as the State Department to strengthen his bipartisan program?

PRINA: What effect would an increase in the Federal minimum wage have on the workers and problems in the South?

DOHERTY: What has been done to patch up differences between the Southern and Northern factions of the Democratic Party?

HURLEIGH: Today in the 84th Congress many committee chairmanships are held by Southern Democrats and, in both Houses, conservative Southern Democrats are expected to form alliances with the Republican conservatives in many a roll call. In an unprecedented and historical political action during the 1954 elections, South Carolina voters wrote in the name of Strom Thurmond on their ballots and elected him United States Senator. Our guest tonight is United States Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina, the 1948 candidate on the States Rights ticket. Senator Thurmond was Governor of South Carolina, when the Democratic convention outraged Southern Democrats with its civil rights platform and caused a split in the party. During the recent mid-term elections, Senator Thurmond was elected as a write-in candidate - defeating the Democratic State Committee's hand-picked candidate in an intra-party battle. Senator Thurmond is national president of the Reserve Officers Association of the United States. And now our guest is ready.



FISKE: REPORTERS' ROUNDUP, which comes to you transcribed this evening from the office of United States Senator Strom Thurmond in the Senate Office Building, in your nation's capital, is presented by Mutual and Facts Forum. Facts Forum, a non-profit, non-political organization, reprints many of these interviews in the monthly Facts Forum News. The February issue contains an interview with Dr. Bella Dodd by Ralph de Toledano. Dr. Dodd relates her experiences while a member of the Communist Party and the reasons for her denunciation of the Party. To reserve your copy, send your subscription order direct to Facts Forum, Dallas, Texas - six month's introductory subscription, only \$1. United States Senator Thurmond is considered highly qualified to meet the challenging questions of this panel of well-known and able reporters: L. Edgar Prina of the Washington Evening Star and Jack Doherty of the New York Daily News. Your Moderator - Robert F. Hurleigh.

HURLEIGH: Tonight's REPORTERS' ROUNDUP presents Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina. Mr. Prina, let's have the first question for Senator Thurmond.

PRINA: Senator, can you tell us briefly what your history making election last November proves?

THURMOND: It proves that when the people are aroused democracy goes into action very strongly.

PRINA: Senator, some observers say that the race between you and Edgar Brown really wasn't important because you were both Democrats. Do you have any comment on that?

THURMOND: I think it was very important because the action of the Democratic Committee in South Carolina in selecting a nominee without a vote of the people in a primary was a direct assault on democracy, and in a state like South Carolina where the outcome of the Democratic primary is equivalent to election, it is most important that the people be allowed to participate in primaries, because there the real leaders are chosen to represent them. The general election is mostly a formality in South Carolina, as it is in a great many other states of the union.

PRINA: Is that what prompted you to promise the voters you would stand for nomination again in two years, although you are serving a six-year term?

THURMOND: We entered the race upon principle. Thousands of people contacted me by telephone, letter and other means of communication and urged that I enter the race. Their rights had been deprived them, their rights of suffrage, and they would have had no choice in the election unless someone had entered that primary - had entered the general election - because they had been deprived of a



primary. It was a race for principle, and I think it was highly important that someone run and give the people the right to vote.

HURLEIGH: Mr. Doherty.

DOHERTY: Senator, it was said at the time of your rather amazing write-in campaign and subsequent election, in a joking manner, that a lot of people didn't realize there were that many South Carolinians who knew how to write or could spell "Thurmond". I have also heard, Senator, that you turned that story to your own advantage during the campaign. Is that true?

THURMOND: Well, I believe the Chairman of the National Democratic Party made the statement along that line, and other people did, and that was a challenge to the people of South Carolina, and they went to the polls and showed these people, these outsiders and others who were insinuating that our people did not know how to write or could not read, that they could read and write. It proved that the people of South Carolina have a high state of literacy. It might interest you to know anyhow that South Carolina produces more college graduates according to her population than any state in the nation.

DOHERTY: That's a remarkable record, Senator. Well, that was said up around the Capitol in a very joking manner, of course - but did that factor help you during your campaign?

THURMOND: It probably helped some, because the people of our state wanted the world to know that we were not illiterates down there - that we did have a high state of literacy, and that we would not take the action of the Committee lying down.

HURLEIGH: Mr. Prina.

PRINA: Senator Thurmond, the Democratic National Committee opposed you in your race against Mr. Brown. Now has the National Party leadership offered you the peace pipe since you have come to Washington?

THURMOND: The national leadership of the party - and I presume by that you mean the Democratic Leader, the Majority Leader - and the others have been very kind to me. On committee assignments I have received three important committee assignments - Interstate and Foreign Commerce, Public Works, and Government Operations, all of which are very important committees.

PRINA: Yes - you are satisfied with your assignments then?

THURMOND: I am pleased with my assignments.

PRINA: Senator, do you have any desire to serve on the Communist Subcommittee of the Government Operations Committee - the old McCarthy Committee?



THURMOND: I shall be glad to serve on any committee to which I am assigned. I am here to do my duty to serve my country. I am interested in opposing Communism. I am interested in seeing it weeded out of government and weeded out of every phase of our life as much as possible.

PRINA: You would serve on the subcommittee then - if appointed?

THURMOND: I would be glad to serve if requested.

HURLEIGH: Mr. Doherty.

DOHERTY: Senator, I was wondering - to get back to Mr. Prina's question on your status with the National Committee - I was just noticing recently, this meeting in New Orleans, there was a good deal of harmony between the Southern and Northern wings of the Democratic Party - how did that come about?

THURMOND: I understand Mr. Lyndon Johnson has done a very fine job in creating harmony among the different elements of the Democratic Party. I did not attend the meeting in New Orleans and I could not answer your specific question for that reason, but the members in the Senate seem very congenial and affable and friendly, but of course when the issues begin to be voted upon I think you can then tell more about the situation.

DOHERTY: Um-hmm. Do you think this new party harmony bodes well for 1956 in the Presidential race?

THURMOND: I think a great deal lies ahead. I think it's impossible at this time to say just what the situation will be at that time.

PRINA: Senator Thurmond, do you plan to support the Eisenhower program in many of its ramifications - legislative program?

THURMOND: I told the people of South Carolina when I was running for the Senate that I would vote with the Democrats to organize the Senate, that after that I would vote my convictions on each piece of legislation. I am not particularly interested who sponsors the legislation - whether it is the Democrats, Republicans, or an individual. I love my country and I want to vote for what is the best interest of my country, regardless of who sponsors the legislation.

PRINA: Well Senator, let's take one specific piece of legislation - the Federal minimum wage. The President wants it raised from 75 cents to 90 cents an hour. How do you feel about that?

THURMOND: I intend to give this matter study and consideration. The agricultural situation is very important in our state, and it is a question as to whether this minimum could be paid to that class of people. On the other hand, our textile milles are paying far more than 90 cents an hour. Frankly,



I hardly see how anyone could live on less than 90 cents an hour - 40 hours a week is only 36 dollars a week, and that seems to be a very meager amount upon which anyone can live in this present day situation.

HURLEIGH: And that's without taxes being taken out of it.

THURMOND: That's right. I do not want to commit myself definitely on some of these issues though until I have given them thorough study. I want to do what is best for the people.

DOHERTY: Senator Thurmond, you are president of the Reserve Officers Association. I wonder how you feel about the Eisenhower Administration's plans to cut back the size of the Army and to reduce the military budget generally. Do you think that's a wise move or not?

THURMOND: That's hard to answer with a yes or no. I will say this - that we must keep the United States prepared. The world looks to us for leadership. In World War II the broad oceans protected us. It will not do so if we have another war. Since then we have fast flying planes that travel long distances and can carry bombs, we have guided missiles, and we have rockets. These things can go from one country to another, and it is essential that this country remain prepared. My opinion is that we should keep a reasonable sized regular establishment Army, Navy and Air Force - and keep a large combat-ready reserve. If the regular establishment is reduced some, it certainly behooves us more than ever to build up a ready reserve, and I mean one that can go into action promptly. It's a problem that has to be considered as a whole.

PRINA: Senator, do you think that we are tending to stress too much importance on air power alone as the one weapon of defense?

THURMOND: I think we ought to maintain the strongest Air Force in the world, but I do not think that Air Force alone is sufficient. We must maintain a strong Navy; we must have the carriers from which our fighter planes, bomber planes can take off; and we also must have reasonable sized land forces. After all, it is the troops who march in and take over a country in time of war, and these troops will be needed, these ground troops, in the event we have another war or emergency.

HURLEIGH: Senator Thurmond, could you comment on the newest plan of Defense Secretary Wilson and the Defense Department for what some call universal military training, but which does have voluntary features?

THURMOND: The Administration has offered a reserve plan. Mr. Carter Burgess came to South Carolina back in the Fall and went over this plan with me. It embodies a great many very desirable features, and I feel as a whole that it is



a good plan. It embodies a great many features that the Reserve Officers Association has advocated. For instance, in July of last year I had a conference with President Eisenhower. At that time I suggested that young men be permitted to <sup>go</sup> ~~to~~ active duty for six months and then be allowed to volunteer for reserve units for the period of their eight-year service - that is, a balance of seven and a half years to complete their eight-year obligation. This new plan is similar to that. This new plan, however, provides for a ten-year service. As a whole I am in accord with the plan, but I do feel that there are some revisions that should be made. For instance, I think ten years is a longer obligation than should be required - and there are other features that should be revised.

HURLEIGH: Senator, in connection with the statement that was made recently by Admiral Radford, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, about a blockade of China if the Communists fail to release the eleven Americans that the UN Secretary General flew to Peiping and has since returned in an attempt to free, if it fails, if he reports that there is very little chance of success, what would be your position in connection with Admiral Radford's statement?

THURMOND: I am not a believer in appeasement. I certainly feel that the necessary steps should be taken to show Red China and to show Russia that we are not going to grant concessions of any kind that are unreasonable. Our country has been most patient, and we should be patient, but we must be firm, and we must stand for the rights of this country and her citizens, and if it is necessary to bring about a blockade then this can be done. I am in favor of taking the steps necessary to see that these airmen who are being held are released, and I feel that in order to maintain the pride of this country and the leadership of the world, and to protect our own citizens, that we must take a strong stand in this matter.

HURLEIGH: In your opinion, Senator Thurmond, would you say that a blockade of the Red China coast would be an act of war? There seems to be a difference of opinion. A number of Senators have indicated, and others, that it is not an act of war, whereas I believe President Eisenhower has said that it is. What is your opinion, sir?

THURMOND: Well, there is a great variance of opinion on this, and it is mainly a question of opinion. It is possible that it could bring on war. However, I am not convinced that this would be the case. I do think that steps should be taken to get these men released, and it should be done as quickly as possible.

PRINA: In other words, Senator Thurmond, you think that we could throw a



blockade around the Chinese mainland and not precipitate war with China or the Soviet Union?

THURMOND: As I state, there is a great difference of opinion on that - although it is possible that it might be done. At the same time, in order to get results it may be necessary to take a drastic course, because if we show weakness it will indicate appeasement, and that brings on war.

PRINA: Do you think --

THURMOND: We remember in World War II when Mr. Chamberlain tried to appease Hitler and it brought on war. Appeasement ~~generally~~ generally brings on war. A strong bold stand generally wards off war.

PRINA: In other --

THURMOND: Especially if we are prepared, as we all should be.

PRINA: I see. In other words --

THURMOND: I think the President is a wise man, and I think he has guided us well in international situations and on foreign questions, and I do not think we should become impatient but give him the opportunity to work out this situation.

PRINA: You feel then, Senator, it wouldn't be a case of our provoking a war - that the Soviets would only go to war when they are ready, and when they ~~can~~ can call the time and place?

THURMOND: That's right. I do not think the Soviets will go to war until they are ready, and that they will wait to call the time and place. Therefore we must not wait and permit them to start a war against us when they are ready. We must be prepared to defend this country at any time in the event we are attacked, and we must stand up for our rights. We will be respected more by the Soviets and the other Communists of the world if we do this, and my opinion is that we will not get into a war if we stand for our rights to which this country is entitled and its citizens are entitled.

HURLEIGH: Mr. Doherty.

DOHERTY: In the meantime, what do you think of the idea of peaceful co-existence, or, as President Eisenhower calls it, a modus vivendi with the Communist world? There have been suggestions that this is a soft policy, a policy of appeasement, but its proponents also claim that it's really a tough policy because co-existence in this instance means troops alerted and ready, airplanes warmed up with bombs in the bomb bays, and everything all set to go. How do you feel?

THURMOND: I think possibly that the President's stand is satisfactory on



this point and that it is possible maybe for co-existence for a while, but I still do not trust the Communists, and I still feel that we must be prepared and take no chances, and not say that "Well, the Free World can live here and the Communists with totalitarianism can live here and have no fear of each other." I do not trust the Communists. I fear the Communists, and in my opinion they will start a war when they feel that they are ready.

DOHERTY: But in the meantime you would favor a policy of determined peaceful co-existence?

THURMOND: I certainly do think we ought to be prepared. We should remain determined and ready, and I think that there is less chance of war now since President Eisenhower has become President. In fact, I believe it is said that this is the only time in 23 years that there has not been a war somewhere.

HURLEIGH: On the matter of co-existence, Senator Thurmond, is it not possible - a moment ago when you said that you did not trust the Communists the thought occurred to me that the very fact that the Communist Party of the United States, its Daily Worker, the publication here in this country, and the Communist Party generally throughout the world has been trying to obtain co-existence. Does not that in a sense, predicated on your statement earlier of not trusting them, cause one to look with a jaundiced eye upon the co-existence policy?

THURMOND: I think that is true. I think that we should be on guard. On the other hand, of course, the Communist Party in this country might pursue some course to try to throw us off the track, and we should not lose our heads about the situation, but we must be on guard, and I stress to the people of America that we must keep prepared. We should be ready at any time to meet an attack.

HURLEIGH: Mr. Prina.

PRINA: Senator Thurmond, one way, I suppose, to be ready would be to maintain an armed force, armed services of some skill and experience. I am sure you realize the problem that the armed services are having now on recruitment and losing men of skill and experience who are going out to civilian life at better salaries. Do you believe this new pay raise plan is going to solve that situation for them?

THURMOND: I wouldn't say that it is going to solve the situation, but I do think it will help the situation. I think the matter of medical aid for



dependents, the matter of PX's and other fringe benefits so to speak, will be helpful in saving a great many officers and men who might leave the service who are valuable to the services. In World War II 98 percent of the personnel were civilian soldiers, that is, Army and Air Force, and between 80 and 90 percent of the Navy personnel were civilian ~~XXXXXX~~ soldiers, so we can see that if we have another war or emergency, that the mass of personnel there comes from the civilian soldiers. Therefore it is essential that we maintain a strong reserve, a reserve of citizen soldiers who will be in combat readiness in case they are needed.

PRINA: Do you believe that we can maintain a reserve that can be thrown into the breach in a very very short time, as probably will be needed in another war?

THURMOND: I think we can do so if the Reserve has the right kind of program. It does not have so at the present, and I am a member of the Reserve and I am familiar with the program and --

PRINA: What is wrong with the program now, Senator?

THURMOND: We need more manpower, we need more modern weapons and equipment, we need better training facilities, we need more armies - in fact, we need most everything. I don't criticize the services for this. They are doing the best they can with what we have, but we must have these facilities and we must have the manpower. For instance, in the case of anti-aircraft, in World War II the men who manned an anti-aircraft battery could not go out now and man a night battery without more training, more skillful training, and this training must be given these anti-aircraft units, because they would not be ready for combat if they had only been trained in the old anti-aircraft methods. This is one example.

DOHERTY: Senator, you are talking on a rather expensive overall military posture. Do you think this outweighs the Eisenhower Administration's fond hope of balancing the budget? Do you think it will necessitate deficit financing?

THURMOND: I think if extravagance is eliminated and as many persons as possible are eliminated and if economy is practiced, that a great saving can result there. I am confident that a great many consolidations and reorganizations can be brought about that will result in the savings of millions and maybe billions of dollars.

HURLEIGH: I am sorry - I am sorry, Gentlemen, but I'm going to have to cut in here. Our board of judges has selected the three prize-winning questions submitted by our listeners for this evening's broadcast. In a moment Senator



Strom Thurmond is going to answer these questions. Stand by for the names of the winners.

FISKE: A large portion of the responsibility for keeping the American people the best informed people in the world belongs to radio newscasters, commentators and analysts. On Mutual you'll find veteran newsmen in every category who are experts in their fields, and who take their responsibility to you, the listener, with utmost seriousness. Whether you prefer a fast, five-minute digest of the big headlines of the moment or thoughtful, penetrating and informed commentary, Mutual is your network for news, as you like it and when you like it. Weekday evenings there are Fulton Lewis, Jr., Gabriel Heatter and Virgil Pinckly, with full quarter hours of news, as well as Lyle Van and his five-minute news capsule. And the daytime favorite, Robert F. Hurleigh, is heard every morning with news and commentary. Cedric Foster, whose constant search for background takes him to many corners of the world. And Cecilia Brown, Bill Cunningham and Les Higbie. These are but a few of the Mutual names for news. Hear them all regularly over most of these stations. Mutual is your network for news.

HURLEIGH: And now, Senator Thurmond, here are those prize-winning questions from our listeners.

FISKE: From Mrs. Violet Franks, of Winmena, Illinois -

HURLEIGH: What action should Congress take to halt the flow of American goods from the Free World allies to Communist China and other Red countries?

THURMOND: The United States should take action to halt any goods that could be used on the question of defense or in the matter of armaments, and should do so without delay.

FISKE: From Mrs. G. W. Olson, Jr., of Denver, Colorado -

HURLEIGH: If the Congressional pay raise is approved, would present members of the Senate and House reap the benefits, or would the next Congress?

THURMOND: It would depend upon the wording of the law. Personally, I do not expect to vote for the pay raise. I have never voted to raise my own pay.

FISKE: From Ella Josaphine MacDonough, of Jersey City, N. J. -

HURLEIGH: You may take a few more moments in answering this one, Senator. Will the introduction of greater numbers of Northerners into the South through promotion schemes and transfer of industries eventually transform the Old South politically, economically and otherwise?

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THURMOND: We are ~~happy~~ to have down South the Northern people. Someone said some time ago that cotton was going west, the cattle were coming east, and



that the Northerners were coming south, and that the Southerners were going north. It seems to be a considerable mix-up in the situation, but we are so glad to have good citizens down in the South and help to develop our South. Our South is growing very fast. In South Carolina we now have many fine textile mills, we have many developments along wool lines, we have chemical plants, we have carpet plants, finishing plants, glass plants - wonderful report. We are making great progress. We invite all of the Northern people to come down and see us - join us.

FISKE: Handsome Cyma Dual Purpose Clocks are being sent to the persons just named for submitting the three prize-winning questions on this evening's broadcast. This program is presented by Mutual and Facts Forum to provoke further thought and interest in national issues. Many Facts Forum programs are published in the monthly Facts Forum News. The February issue contains a special feature article by Freda Utley, a well-known and respected authority on the Far East, revealing her conviction, based on actual experience, that the Russian people actually despise their Soviet tyrants. For more information about the February Facts Forum News, write to Facts Forum, Dallas, Texas. Each week our listeners are invited to send in questions. Next week our news-making guest will be questioned on the foreign trade and U. S. tariff policy. The writers of the three most interesting and timely questions will each receive this handsome prize - a Cyma Dual Purpose Clock, made by the world-famous Cyma watchmakers. This Cyma Clock will be your companion at home or wherever you go. Send in your questions on the back of a postcard with your full name and complete address. Mail it to REPORTERS' ROUNDUP, Mutual Broadcasting System, Washington, D. C. All questions remain the property of REPORTERS' ROUNDUP.

HURLEIGH: I want to thank United States Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina for being our guest on tonight's REPORTERS' ROUNDUP, which came to you transcribed from the Senator's office in Washington, D. C. My thanks also to the reporters on our panel: L. Edgar Prina of the Washington Evening Star and Jack Doherty of the New York Daily News. Be sure to send in your questions on foreign trade and United States tariff policy for next week's program. Until next week then, this is Robert F. Hurleigh.

FISKE: This broadcast of REPORTERS' ROUNDUP will make news because its guest - Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina - has faced questions which are asked by all Americans. Next week and each week thereafter, REPORTERS' ROUNDUP will seek out the top news and the man who makes it. You'll get the story behind the headlines as our guest answers the questions of Robert F. Hurleigh and a panel of veteran reporters. This is Fred Fiske speaking.